(b) the schemes for self employment being implemented for the educated unemployed and since when being implemented;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted by Government in respect of achievements of these schemes; if so, the results thereof; and

(d) whether any proposal is under consideration for improvement in these schemes or any new scheme is being proposed by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey, for which results are available, was conducted during 2004-05. As per this survey, number of educated unemployed (Secondary and above) for persons of age 15 years and above was estimated to be of the order of 6.57 million on usual status basis during 2004-05.

(b) Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) was launched on 2nd October 1993 to assist educated unemployed youth to set up self-employment ventures. Estimated employment generation/additional employment opportunities created under this scheme is around 39.71 lakhs up to December, 2006 since its inception. Besides, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) launched on 1st April 1999, the Urban Self-Employment Programme (USEP) under Swarna Jyanti Shahri Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY) operating since December 1997 and Rural Employment Generation Programme operating with effect from 1st April, 1995, also aim at providing employment to both educated and uneducated persons.

(c) and (d) Review and evaluation of Scheme is carried out from time to time and corrective measures are taken accordingly.

Amending immigration rules for semi-skilled workers

1740. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are now focusing attention on the semi-skilled and unskilled immigrants;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to amend the immigration rules for the semi-skilled;

(c) whether the new legislation will lay down service standards for recruiting agencies that carry out placement of Indian workers in various countries in the Gulf and other regions; and

(d) if so, whether proposed laws will have provisions to come down heavily on people smuggling and illegal trafficking, including recommending stringent penalties and setting up special courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government is considering amendment of the Emigration Act, 1983 in order to provide for promotion of overseas employment, better protection of emigrant workers and stringent egulation of the recruiting agents including laying down service standards for them. It is proposed to include penal provisions against the offence of human smuggling. There is no proposal for setting up special courts. The amendments are under finalization.

Problem of Child Labour

1741. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are working on a mechanism to bring the Ministries concerned together on a common platform in a fresh attempt to address the problem of child labour in the country;

(b) whether the Planning Commission is agreeable for any extra funds for any such initiative; and

(c) whether the Ministry of Women and Child Development would be engaged in carrying out the projects aimed at eradicating the problems of child labour, effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Extra funds have not been sought from Planning Commission for effecting convergence with different Ministries to address the problem of child labour in the country.